



General Assembly

***Substitute Joint  
Resolution No. 33***

*February Session, 2016*

\*        SJ00033GAE        031516        \*

***RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO  
CONVENE AN ARTICLE V CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO  
OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN  
CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1       WHEREAS, the first President of the United States, George  
2       Washington, stated, "The basis of our political systems is the right of  
3       the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government.";  
4       and

5       WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the United  
6       States Constitution that the United States Congress should be  
7       "dependent on the people alone" (The Federalist No. 52, James  
8       Madison); and

9       WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on  
10      the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in  
11      elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

12      WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens*  
13      *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed  
14      restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

15      WHEREAS, the removal of these restrictions has resulted in the  
16      unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted  
17      the will of the people by undermining the people's ability to choose

18 political leadership, write laws and determine the fate of the  
19 government; and

20 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the  
21 United States Congress to call a convention, on Application of the  
22 Legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, for the purpose of  
23 proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; and

24 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut sees the need for a convention  
25 to propose amendments in order to address concerns such as those  
26 raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens*  
27 *United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases and events,  
28 including those occurring long before or afterward or for a  
29 substantially similar purpose, and desires that said convention should  
30 be so limited; and

31 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut desires that the delegates to  
32 said convention shall be comprised equally of individuals currently  
33 elected to state and local office, or be selected by election, in each  
34 Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though  
35 all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the  
36 past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the convention and  
37 intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its  
38 delegates within the limits expressed above; and

39 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut intends that this be a  
40 continuing application considered together with applications calling  
41 for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454,  
42 the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 2013-  
43 2014 Illinois legislature as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42 and all other  
44 similar passed, pending and future applications, the aforementioned  
45 concerns of Connecticut notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds  
46 of the several states have applied for a convention and said convention  
47 is convened by the United States Congress.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the people of the State

49 of Connecticut speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to  
50 Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby petitions the United  
51 States Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing  
52 amendments to the United States Constitution as soon as two-thirds of  
53 the several states have applied for a convention; and

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of  
55 Representatives and the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the  
56 President of the United States; the Vice President of the United States  
57 in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate and  
58 addressed to him at the office he maintains in the United States Capitol  
59 Building; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
60 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the  
61 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, each Senator and  
62 Representative from Connecticut in the United States Congress with  
63 the respectful request that the full and complete text of this resolution  
64 be printed in the Congressional Record; and the Governor of each state  
65 and the presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several  
66 states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing an application  
67 compelling the United States Congress to call a convention for  
68 proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States  
69 Constitution.

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

Throughout the resolution, "Constitution of the United States of America" was changed to "United States Constitution" and "Congress of the United States" was changed to "United States Congress" for consistency, and technical changes were made.

***GAE***      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*